



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 2, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board Household Hazardous Waste Funding

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning to accept and direct funding from the Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board (NEST Board) for Household Hazardous Waste collection event expenses and to authorize reimbursement of eligible expenses to the NEST Board from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Household Hazardous Waste grant revenue received by the County.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Bonnie Lawrence. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb
Enclosure

cc: Daniel R. Castle, AICP, Commissioner
Bonnie Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board Household Hazardous Waste Funding
Date: July 2, 2025

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) to accept and direct funding from the Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board (NEST Board) for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection expenses and to authorize reimbursement of eligible expenses to the NEST Board from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) HHW grant revenue received by the County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The NEST Board has agreed to fund one Erie County HHW collection event each year. DEP provides the staffing, permitting and technical support for the event. The NEST Board provides funding for disposal costs of the event, not to exceed \$40,000. Funding from the NEST Board will be placed in the Household Hazardous Waste Days budget, which funds both HHW collection events and a voucher program for HHW drop-off for the residents of Erie County.

A NYSDEC grant provides Erie County reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible expenses for collecting and properly disposing of HHW. Erie County will direct the associated state reimbursed funds for the NEST Board sponsored HHW collection event to the NEST Board each year.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of this resolution will support DEP's waste reduction and recycling services for Erie County residents by funding an additional HHW collection for residents each year. Combining HHW collection events with the HHW Voucher Program at a permanent HHW facility was recommended by the June 2018 *Household Hazardous Waste Feasibility Study for the County of Erie*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County HHW Program has been in existence since 1988 and has serviced over 68,000 households by providing single-day HHW collection events multiple times annually at no charge to participating residents. The *Household Hazardous Waste Feasibility Study for the County of Erie* was commissioned to review the collection program at the time and provide recommendations for improving it. The study recommended adding a reservation system to the multiple collection events offered annually and pointed to contracting with a permanent facility to service residents on a regular basis.

In 2020, the HHW Voucher Program was introduced to provide County residents, who need to dispose of HHW items immediately, with a means for proper disposal. The Voucher Program allows residents to make an appointment for the disposal of up to 50 pounds of acceptable HHW at a permitted HHW facility in Tonawanda, for no charge to the resident.

The collection events coupled with the HHW Voucher Program have reduced the amount of hazardous chemical products stored in homes, reducing fire and poisoning risk, improving first responder and sanitation worker safety, while also preventing these hazardous materials from being released into the environment.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The County would provide fewer residents with safe and proper disposal options for HHW resulting in an increased amount of hazardous chemical products stored in homes, increasing fire and poisoning risk, reducing first responder and sanitation worker safety, and potentially increasing the likelihood of these dangerous wastes entering the environment.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Up to \$40,000 collected from the NEST Board will be directed to DEP Budget SAP account 517629 - Hazardous Waste Days to support the HHW Collection program annually. Once DEP is reimbursed by NYSDEC for up to 50% of HHW collection and disposal costs, associated eligible expenses from the NEST Board sponsored collection event will be reimbursed to the NEST Board, up to \$20,000 annually.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board Household Hazardous Waste Funding

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP) provides Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal options for Erie County residents through one-day HHW collection events and a drop-off HHW Voucher Program; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Board (NEST Board) has approved paying Erie County up to \$40,000 annually for costs associated with sponsoring an Erie County HHW collection event each year; and

WHEREAS, a one-year agreement between the NEST Board and Erie County authorized by COMM 11E-24 (2023) was executed in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) provides Erie County with an annual 50% reimbursement grant of eligible expenses to collect and properly dispose of HHW, including the NEST Board sponsored collection event; and

WHEREAS, the NEST Board is eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of their costs associated with the HHW collection event they sponsor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to accept up to \$40,000 from the NEST Board and amend the Department of Environment and Planning's (Fund 110, Funds Center 16210) 2025 Operating Budget as follows:

Department of Environment and Planning
Fund 110, Funds Center 16210

REVENUES	CHANGE
479100 Other Contributions	<u>\$40,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$40,000</u>
 APPROPRIATIONS	 CHANGE
517629 Hazardous Waste Days	<u>\$40,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$40,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to reimburse the NEST Board for up to 50% of their expenses for the collection event when reimbursed to Erie County by NYSDEC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the Division of Budget and Management to make any budget adjustments necessary to comply with State funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Division of Budget and Management, Department of Law, and Department of Environment and Planning.